

East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION
REPORT NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY
TOPIC Grossenhain Airfield

EVALUATION 25X1X PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A

DATE OF CONT. 25X1A
DATE OBTAINED 28 September 1953
REPAIRED

REFERENCES

PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

SOURCE

25X1X

1. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at Grossenhain airfield between 17 August and 3 September 1953:

17 August. Between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks flew individually and in formations of twos and fours. One of the formations of four was occasionally seen through gaps in the clouds. The formations of two MiG-15s remained about 15 minutes, while individual flights lasted about 4 minutes. There was a 5/10 overcast at an altitude of 1,200 meters and light wind. Between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., there was night flying by aircraft which took off in groups of two but flew individually with their position lights burning. A rotatable searchlight was in operation.

18 August. In the morning, there was flying by formations of twos and fours. An individual MiG-15 was also seen towing an air sleeve. The aircraft left the airfield toward the west at an altitude of 500 to 700 meters. The formations returned after 30 to 35 minutes. There was a 7/10 overcast at an altitude of about 800 meters. In the afternoon flying was practiced as in the morning. About 1 p.m., 34 MiG-15s and 4 single-engine low-wing monoplanes were parked at the field.

19 August. No flying was observed during the daytime. There was a 3/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters. Between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., swept-back jet fighters made individual flights of about 6 minutes duration each.

20 August. In the morning, swept-back jet fighters with auxiliary fuel tanks made formation flights in elements of twos and fours. Each flight lasted 30 to 45 minutes. There was a 7/10 overcast at an altitude of about 900 meters and light wind.

21 August. No flying was observed throughout the day. There was a 9/10 overcast at an altitude of 500 meters and it rained intermittently. Between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., individual aircraft made local flights of about 5 minutes' duration. Up to two aircraft were seen aloft at a time. It was raining.

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

25X1A

25X1

22 August. In the morning, MIG-15s practiced individual flying and flying in elements of twos. Repeatedly aircraft towing an air sleeve were seen. There was a 5/10 overcast at an altitude of 800 meters and strong southwesterly wind. About 10:30 a.m., 27 MIG 15s or U-MIG-15s were parked at the field. 25X1

23 August. No flying was observed. There was a 5/10 overcast at an altitude of 800 meters and strong northwesterly wind.

24 August. No air activity was observed. There was a 2/10 overcast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters and strong southwesterly wind. About 2 p.m., 23 MIG-15s or U-MIG-15s, 25X1

25 August. Between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. formations of two made 10-minute flights. The weather was 4/10 overcast. In the afternoon, individual flying was mainly observed.

26 August. There was intensive air activity including formation flying by groups of two, four and eight swept-back jet fighters. The formations left the airfield at an altitude of 600 to 700 meters in a westerly direction. They returned from the same direction after about 40 minutes. The aircraft of the formations kept distances of 20 to 25 meters and intervals of 30 to 35 meters. The weather was 5/10 overcast at an altitude of 800 meters and there was a light westerly wind. About 11 a.m., one Li-2 landed at the field and again took off at noon. Between 8:30 p.m. and 9:15 p.m., 10-minute flights were made.

27 August. In the morning MIG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks made individual flights of 6 to 8 minutes duration at an altitude of about 400 meters. There was a 4/10 overcast at an altitude of about 800 meters.

28 August. No flying was observed. There was a 6/10 overcast and it rained intermittently.

29 August. No air activity was observed in the morning. There was a 8/10 overcast at an altitude of about 500 meters and a strong westerly wind.

30 August. There was no flying. Weather was 8/10 overcast at an altitude of 600 meters and it rained intermittently.

31 August. Between 7:30 a.m. and 1:20 p.m., about 30 take-offs by elements of two MIG-15s fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks were observed. The formations flew at an altitude of about 500 meters in a northwesterly direction and returned after 20 minutes.

1 September. In the morning, formations of twos and fours left toward the west. They were seen returning from the same direction. In the afternoon groups of two practiced flying as in the morning.

SECRET

SECRET/

- 3 -

25X1A

25X1 2 September. Groups of two aircraft took off and made flights in formations of twos and fours at altitudes between 1,000 and 1,500 meters. Again the formations left toward the west and returned from there after 35 and 45 minutes. The weather was fair. About 4:30 p.m., 27 MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s [redacted] were observed on the field. Some of the aircraft were parked in aircraft revetments.

3 September. In the afternoon, groups of two, and between 9 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. individual planes, practiced flying. The weather was 4/10 overcast.

2.

25X1C

3. The following air activity and aircraft were observed at the field between 18 August and 3 September:

25X1 18 August. In the morning, MiG-15s practiced local flying. The weather was 7/10 overcast. In the afternoon, MiG-15s parked at the field included [redacted]

19 and 21 August. There was no flying. The weather was overcast and dull.

22 August. There was intensive air activity by swept-back jet fighters. The weather was 3/10 overcast and visibility good.

23 August. No flying was observed.

26 August. In the morning, MiG-15s were seen aloft. The weather was 5/10 overcast.

27 August. MiG-15s were seen aloft in the morning. There was a 7/10 overcast which decreased to 3/10 later on. At 5 p.m., a formation of 6 MiG-15s approached the field.

28 to 30 August. There was no air activity. The weather was 7/10 to 10/10 overcast.

31 August. Throughout the day, formations of two and four swept-back jet fighters practiced flying. There was a 3/10 overcast and good visibility.

1 September. Flying was practiced as on the preceding day. There were scattered clouds.

2 September. There was flying throughout the day.

3 September. Flying was observed in the afternoon after the weather became fair. 1

SECRET

SECRET

- 4 -

25X1A

4. Many soldiers from all branches of service were seen in the streets and restaurants of Grossenhain on Saturday nights and on Sunday afternoons.

5. On 30 August, a column of 33 trucks probably coming from Zeithain was observed proceeding to the field. Each of the trucks, which was occupied by 8 to 10 men, towed a mortar. The convoy was led by three sedans which were occupied by officers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia. At 2 p.m. on 1 September, a column of 2 sedans, 2 ambulances and 25 to 30 trucks was seen proceeding to the field. Personnel observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia.

6.

25X1C

7. Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., no flying was observed. It rained intermittently. Ten MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s were parked in front of the hangars. Between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on 29 August, there was no air activity.

25X1

8. On 29 August, new telephone poles were observed along the inside of the fence on the western edge of the field. On both sides of the flying lane the poles were 1.7 meters high. Along National Highway No 101 there extended a postal telephone line, the poles of which were also utilized for a Soviet line. This latter line was dismantled by Soviet soldiers on 29 August.

9. On 29 August, 50 soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets were lined up near the main entrance to the airfield. At the same time the playing of a military band and the marching of troops was heard from the barracks area. In the fenced-in area south of the KVP Kaserne, soldiers with red-bordered black and black-bordered blue epaulets were observed. Twenty soldiers with black-bordered blue epaulets who carried bathing utensils descended from truck [redacted] in front of the entrance to the KVP area. A few minutes later about 20 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets and artillery insignia led by an officer marched into the KVP area.

25X1C

10.

25X1

1.

25X1

2.

25X1

3.

Comment. A troop training grounds is located near Zeithain. The purpose of the movements could not be determined.

25X1A

SECRET